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Special Committee on the situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Bermuda

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. General

1. Bermuda[1] is located in the western part of the Atlantic Ocean about 917 kilometres east of Cape Hatteras on the North Carolina coast of the United States of America.

2. The Territory has a total area of 53.35 square kilometres and consists of 150 islands and islets extending from north-east to south-west along the edge of an extinct, submarine volcano. Many of the islands are connected and rise above sea level to an average height of 30 metres and a maximum elevation of 86 metres. The terrain is generally hilly, with fertile depressions and some marshy areas. The largest island is about 22.5 kilometres long and 3.2 kilometres wide. It covers an area of about 3,650 hectares, consisting mostly of a fertile, shallow valley.

3. According to the latest estimates, the population of Bermuda totalled 61,121 as of 1995.

II. Constitutional and political developments

A. General

4. It will be recalled that the Constitution of Bermuda, adopted in June 1968 and amended in 1973, 1979 and 1989, contains provisions relating to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual; the powers and duties of the Governor; and the composition, powers and procedures of the Legislature, the Executive, the judiciary and the public service.

5. The Government of Bermuda consists of a Governor, a Deputy Governor, a Cabinet and a bicameral Legislature comprising a Senate and a House of Assembly. The Governor, appointed by the Queen, is responsible for defence, external affairs, internal security and the police. The Governor has delegated some responsibilities in these areas to the territorial Government. In exercising his reserved powers, the Governor is required to consult with the Governor's Council, of which he is Chairman, and of which the Premier and two or three Cabinet ministers nominated by the Premier are members (see also para. 34 below). The Premier and his Cabinet, through the Legislature, have full responsibility for the Government, except where restricted by the Governor's reserved powers. The Secretary of the Cabinet, appointed by the Governor in accordance with a recommendation of the Premier, heads the public service and also acts as Secretary to the Governor's Council.

B. Political parties and elections

6. There are three political parties in the Territory: the United Bermuda Party (UBP), the National Liberal Party (NLP) and the Progressive Labour Party (PLP).

7. In the most recent general election in Bermuda, held on 5 October 1993, UBP won a majority of 22 seats in the territorial Legislature and PLP obtained 18 seats.

III. Activities related to the withdrawal of military bases

8. Information on activities related to the withdrawal of the military bases during 1993 and 1994 is contained in previous working papers on the Territory prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1189, paras. 31-35, and A/AC.109/2020, paras. 10 and 11). It will be recalled that in October 1995, Mr. Grant Gibbons, the Minister of Finance, announced the closure of the following military bases and/or installations in the Territory: the United States Naval Air Station at St. David's, the United States Naval Annex and Tudor Hill facility at Southampton; and the former Canadian Forces Station at St. Daniel's Head. He warned that the withdrawal of those military bases would result in an annual loss by the Territory of approximately US$ 50 million in the foreign currency earnings that had originated from the operation of those bases. The Minister further unveiled a long-term plan for the utilization of the land transferred to the jurisdiction of the territorial Government as a result of those closures. The plan includes the following development projects: a golf course and other tourism-related developments, a commercial fisheries centre, a technology park, an educational and research centre, a public marina and recreation facilities. It is expected that the implementation of the plan could create an additional 3,000 jobs in Bermuda. The Bermuda Land Development Company, a quasi-government agency, will manage and finance the projects.

IV. Economic conditions

A. General

9. Bermuda has no natural resources in the conventional sense upon which to build a viable economy. It has capitalized historically on its location and scenic beauty and has developed a renowned tourist industry, which continues

to be an important component of the territorial economy. The international business industry also makes an important contribution to the economy of Bermuda, bringing in large amounts of foreign currency. Other earnings are derived from shipping, investment income and other goods and services.

10. Manufacturing and agriculture exist on a limited scale and therefore contribute little to the economy of Bermuda. The local manufacturing sector includes printing, fish processing and ship repair, as well as the manufacture of paint. In recent years, there have been attempts to attract high-technology companies to Bermuda in an effort to develop in the Territory a centre for information technology. Agricultural activity is constrained by the small amount of land available for farming.

11. According to the administering Power, during 1996, the rate of inflation was 2.5 per cent, compared with 2.5 per cent in 1995 and 2.3 per cent in 1994.

B. Public finance

12. According to the administering Power, total revenues for the financial year 1996/97 is estimated at B$ 473.1 million,[2] an increase of 10 per cent over 1995/96. Current account expenditure for 1996/97 amounts to B$ 435.0 million, an increase of 8.1 per cent over 1995/96. Total government debt outstanding by the end of 1996/97 will be B$140 million.

C. Banking

13. Foreign banks are not allowed to operate in Bermuda; therefore, local banks benefit from a quasi-monopoly in handling lucrative international business operations for offshore clients.

14. The Bank of Bermuda is ranked as the world's 684th largest bank, and the Bank of Butterfield is ranked 795th. A third bank, Bermuda Commercial Bank, founded in 1969 and the only bank owned by Bermudians of African ancestry, was acquired in 1993 by First Curaçao International Bank based in the Netherlands Antilles.

15. According to the administering Power, as of September 1996, the assets of the Bermuda banks stood at B$ 13,328 million. They included cash and demand deposits, B$ 460 million; time deposits, B$ 5,035 million; investments, B$ 4,916 million, loans and advances, B$ 2,254 million; premises and equipment, B$ 222 million; and other assets, B$ 441 million.

D. International business

16. The contribution made by international business companies to Bermuda's economy continued to be an important factor of the economic welfare of the Territory.

17. According to the administering Power, as of 31 December 1996, the total number of active international businesses registered in Bermuda was 9,272, comprising 8,466 exempted companies, 283 exempted partnership companies, 497 non-resident companies and 26 non-resident insurance companies. During 1996, the net increase in the number of foreign companies on the register was 526.

18. Bermuda is a leading world captive insurance centre and a favoured venue for specialist companies operating as financial reinsurers covering international companies against the cost of legal awards. The growth of this sector in Bermuda is attributable mainly to increasing rates for international reinsurance in Europe and North America, as well as to the Territory's financial regulations and the absence of a tax on profits, dividends or income.

19. The Registrar of Companies, who is the chief regulator of the territorial insurance industry, reiterated in recent statements that the standards and rules of acceptance in the industry must be kept high to screen out disreputable companies attempting to domicile in Bermuda. He also said that his department was increasing the level of its staff and improving its technical facilities in order to cope with the growth in the insurance and reinsurance market.

E. Transport and communications

20. Basic information on transport and communications is contained in the 1994 and 1995 working papers on Bermuda prepared by the Secretariat (see A/AC.109/1189, paras. 57-59, and A/AC.109/2020, paras. 22 and 23).

F. Tourism

21. During the period under review, tourism continued to constitute a major sector of the territorial economy and a principal source of foreign exchange.

22. According to the administering Power, in 1996, tourist air arrivals to Bermuda totalled 391,450 and cruise passenger

arrivals were 180,226, increases of 0.8 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively compared with 1995. This increase in tourist and cruise passenger arrivals was attributed in part to a new advertising campaign and to an increase in scheduled cruise ship visits. During the period from January to September 1996, tourist expenditure totalled B$ 387.9 million.

23. According to the administering Power, the hotel industry continued to be an important employer in Bermuda and, as of July 1996, accounted for 4,236 jobs.

V. Social conditions

A. Race relations

24. It will be recalled that in his statement of 5 November 1993 (A/AC.109/1189, para. 75), the Governor announced the creation of a new Ministry of Human Affairs to deal with racial discrimination in the community, and to work with all concerned towards its elimination. The Ministry established a plan of action that consisted of measures in the following three areas:

(a) The Commission for Unity and Racial Equality (CURE) Act 1994 was enacted by the Legislature, and the Commission was established in the following year. The Commission is actively involved in working with individuals, employers, unions and institutions to promote better race relations through education and social programmes aimed at changing behaviours and improving attitudes on racial issues;

(b) The powers, scope and function of the Human Rights Commission were increased by amendments to the Human Rights Acts of 1981;

(c) Amendments were made to the Criminal Code to make "racial harassment" and "racial intimidation" criminal offences.

25. In 1995, the Government released a report entitled "Bermuda's Stride towards the Twenty-First Century", containing a sociological analysis of developments in Bermuda. The report highlighted the problems that stem from the continued existence of institutionalized racism and racism in the workplace and recommended that the Government take action to address those issues. CURE is currently addressing the issues identified in the report under the provisions set out in CURE's legislation, which empowers the Commission to publish a draft code of practice containing practical guidance for the elimination of racial and gender discrimination in employment. The Commission, after consultation with concerned organizations and associations in the community, is in the final stages of completing a draft of the code, which was due to reach the Minister in March 1997. The Commission has funded a diversity skills development programme, offered in collaboration with the NTL Institute of Washington, D.C., and the Bermuda College. The programme was designed to train facilitators to work with a variety of organizations and institutions on the issue of diversity and how to manage it in the context of Bermuda. A total of 60 people have been trained to date, and the aim is to increase this number to 100. Under the direction of CURE, these facilitators are active in carrying out workshops with institutions to eliminate institutional racial discrimination and remove all barriers to equal opportunity in Bermuda.

B. Labour

26. According to the administering Power, as of 1996, total employment in Bermuda was 34,633. The breakdown of the employment figures by industry was as follows: agriculture, fishing and quarrying, 503; manufacturing, 1,392; utilities, 516; construction, 1,896; wholesale and retail trade, 4,877; hotels, restaurants and clubs, 5,984; transport, storage and communications, 2,205; banks, insurance, real estate and business services, 5,307; public administration and defence, 4,468; education, health, community, personal and household services, 5,581; and international companies, 2,420.

C. Public health

27. The Ministry of Health and Social Services continues to be responsible for all aspects relating to public health. Medical care is provided by private practitioners and three government health clinics. Fees are charged for hospital care, and medical insurance is compulsory for all workers. A hospital levy covers the cost of services rendered by the hospitals to children under 16 years of age. Indigent persons over 65 years of age pay 20 per cent of hospital costs.

D. Crime and crime prevention

28. The administering Power reports that in July 1995 the new Commissioner of Police published the Service Strategy. This document addressed a wide range of problems, including a worrying increase in crime throughout Bermuda;

low deployment of officers on patrol; an excessively high ratio of officers of the rank of superintendent or above; an extremely low proportion of civilian staff; and police stations and accommodation that were cramped, badly designed or not of an acceptable standard.

29. The Bermuda Police Service Annual Report for 1995 stated that the number of true cases of indictable crime reported in 1995 was 5,233, a decrease of 640 or 10.9 per cent in comparison to the previous year's figures. Crime statistics for 1995 included the following: murders, 3; grievous bodily harm, 62; bodily harm, including injuries, 126; assaults on police, 13; and sexual assaults on females, 65. In 1994, the rate of crime detection was 38.54 per cent, compared with 36.28 per cent in 1995. Drug offences are not included in these detection rates. When they are included, the detection rate for 1995 was 40.05 per cent, compared with 42.45 per cent in 1994. The report noted that "the scourge of drugs and drug abuse continues to be a major factor in criminal activity in Bermuda". Approximately 80 per cent of all criminal offenders cite drugs as the root cause of their involvement in crime. During 1995, the Bermuda Police Service seized 109.32 grams of heroin, 8,915 grams of cocaine (an additional 31.27 kilogrammes was found on the shoreline), 12,887.87 grams of free-base cocaine, 430.73 grams of cannabis resin and 176 cannabis plants. The Police Narcotics Division also seized B$ 133,985.97 in cash.

VI. Educational conditions

30. Pursuant to the 1988 observations and recommendations of the Government's Education Planning Team, Bermuda's education system is in the final phase of an extensive restructuring project. The major recommendations of the Team were as follows: abolition of the secondary school entrance examination; introduction of middle schools, to which admission would be based upon enrollment in specified feeder primary schools; establishment of senior schools to which admission would be based upon parental choice and the availability of space, with the option of random selection should either of the two senior schools be oversubscribed; and education of all children, including children with special needs, should be undertaken in the least restrictive environment, with the consequent closure of the majority of existing special schools.

31. According to the administering Power, the restructured school system will be in place in September 1997 with the opening of the middle schools, and with the establishment of a new, state-of-the-art senior school. An existing secondary school is to be refurbished to become the second senior school. Eighteen primary schools will provide a six-year programme from Primary 1 to Primary 6, and students typically will range in age from 5 to 10 years. Five middle schools will receive students from the feeder primary schools in their respective areas. They will provide a three-year programme from Middle 1 to Middle 3 for students from 11 to 13 years of age. The two senior schools will provide a four-year programme from Senior 1 to Senior 4 for students from 14 to 17 years of age taking a broad range of subjects. Besides the traditional courses in science, mathematics, English language, social studies and foreign languages, subjects will include an increased emphasis on information technology as well as technological studies to replace the outdated industrial arts programme. Graduates of the system will go either directly into the workforce or will continue their education at the Bermuda College or at colleges and universities abroad. The Government also provides preschool education for four-year olds.

VII. Future political status

A. Independence referendum

32. It will be recalled that on 24 March 1995, the territorial House of Assembly adopted the Independence Referendum Act by a vote of 20 to 18, over strong objections by the opposition PLP but with the full support of UBP. On 5 April 1995, following protracted discussions, the bill was approved by the Senate without a negative vote from the three PLP senators. PLP had previously stated that although it supported independence, it opposed a referendum. The voting formula required that at least 40 per cent of those on the electoral roll vote in the referendum in order for the winning option to constitute a mandate. A simple majority would then decide on the future of the Territory and make the referendum binding. The referendum was held on 16 August 1995. According to the administering Power, 58.8 per cent of registered voters participated in the referendum. The results of the referendum were as follows: 25.6 per cent voted in favour of independence; 73.7 per cent voted against; and 0.7 per cent abstained. Following the referendum, Sir John Swan, Premier of Bermuda, resigned and was replaced by Mr. David Saul, former Finance Minister.

B. Position of the territorial Government

33. It will be recalled that in September 1995, Mr. David Saul, Premier of Bermuda, stated that "independence was water under the bridge" and that the "issue would not be raised again during the life of the current parliamentary session". That position remained unchanged during the period under review.

C. Position of the administering Power

34. On 18 December 1996, the United Kingdom Foreign Office Minister, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, announced the following:

> "In the light of recent experience, Her Majesty's Government has examined actual or potential problems in the five Caribbean dependent Territories. Considerable improvements are being made in the administration of the Territories and their good government. However, it has become clear that some extension of those powers which may be exercised by Her Majesty's Government may be needed. We will take it into account in our continuing discussions with each of the five Governments concerned and make changes if and when necessary. We attach importance to our continuing friendship and close cooperation with the Territories in the interests of their well-being and future prosperity."

35. On 9 October 1996, in a statement to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), the representative of the United Kingdom said, *inter alia*:

> "The United Kingdom has 10 dependent Territories which come under the agenda of the Fourth Committee. It is right therefore that the United Kingdom should take this opportunity, as in previous years, to make its national position known to the Committee.
>
> "The United Kingdom remains firmly committed to the principle of self-determination, reflecting the wishes of the people concerned, and exercised in accordance with the other principles and rights set out in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as other treaty obligations ...
>
> "... The British record on decolonization is a good one. The United Kingdom continues to take very seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in our dependent Territories. We make every effort to ensure that information on the Territories is provided to the Special Committee, as required by Article 73 *e* of the Charter ...
>
> "Within the constraints of treaty obligations, we remain firmly committed to ensuring, in cooperation with the locally elected Government, that the constitutional frameworks of our dependent Territories continue to meet the interests and wishes of their peoples.
>
> "Each of the Territories holds regular and free elections at which all parties are free to advocate whatever constitutional proposals they wish ... The United Kingdom is fully prepared to consider any proposals put forward by the people themselves.
>
> "The United Kingdom also takes seriously its obligations in responding to the economic needs of our Dependent Territories. The reasonable economic and financial needs of our Territories remain a first call on our aid programme ..."[3]

36. On 27 March 1997, in a statement to the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom said, *inter alia*, that the United Kingdom fully accepted its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations as an administering Power (A/51/PV.94).

D. Action by the General Assembly

37. On 27 March 1997, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 51/224 B, section III of which particularly concerns Bermuda.

Notes

[1] Information contained in the present working paper has been derived from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations on 13 January and 19 March 1997.

[2] One Bermuda dollar (B$ 100) is equivalent to one United States dollar (US$ 1.00).

[3] For a summary of the statement, see A/C.4/51/SR.4, paras. 59-62.

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I. General

1. The United States Virgin Islands[1] is situated 75 kilometres east of Puerto Rico and comprises about 50 islands and islets, the largest of which are St. Croix (218 square kilometres), St. Thomas (73 square kilometres) and St. John (52 square kilometres). The capital of the Territory, Charlotte Amalie, is located on St. Thomas.

2. According to the administering Power, the estimated population of the Territory in 1996 was 110,000.

3. The climate of the Territory is subtropical and is moderated by the trade winds. The Territory has an average annual rainfall of 114 centimetres (45 inches) and lies within the hurricane zone.

II. Constitutional and political developments

4. Information under this section is contained in previous working papers prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2014, paras. 4-13 and A/AC.109/2054, paras. 4-5).

III. Military installations

5. It will be recalled that the United States Navy maintains in the Territory a radar and sonar calibration station and a headquarters building for its underwater tracking facility. There are permanent recruitment centres for the armed forces and a detachment of the United States Coast Guard on St. Thomas. The Virgin Islands National Guard is affiliated with the United States Army. The Territory remained a port of call for United States naval vessels and those of its allies (A/AC.109/2014, para. 19 and A/AC.109/2054, para. 6).

IV. Economic conditions

A. General

6. The economy of the Territory continues to be based on tourism and related services, construction and industrial development. Most manufacturing industries, including the Hess oil refinery, are located on St. Croix, while St. Thomas and St. John are primarily tourism-oriented. In 1995, the growth in gross domestic product (GDP) was registered at 11.6 per cent.

B. Public finance

7. Information on territorial public finance for the fiscal year 1995 is contained in a previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2014, paras. 21-23).

8. According to the administering Power, total federal funds transferred to the United States Virgin Islands in 1995 equalled US$ 469 million. The distribution of those federal funds was as follows: grants to territorial government, $217 million; salaries and wages, $45 million; direct payments, $160 million; procurement, $34 million; and other programmes, $11 million.

C. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

9. The agricultural sector is small. Some food crops, sorghum, fruit and vegetables are produced for domestic consumption. Senapol cattle are being developed on St. Croix.

D. Industry

10. The manufacturing sector consists of an oil refinery, production of aluminum oxide, and electronics, plastics, pharmaceuticals and watch assembly. It comprises 89 firms. Over 50 per cent of the manufacturing industry establishment and 83.9 per cent of industrial employment are located in St. Croix.

11. The Hess oil refinery is the largest in the western hemisphere and has a capacity of 550,000 barrels a day.[2]

E. Banking and insurance

12. According to the administering Power, as of 1995, deposits in the eight major financial institutions operating in the Territory (Banco Popular, Bank of St. Croix, Chase Manhattan, Citibank, First Bank P.R., First VI Federal Saving Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia and VI Community Bank) exceeded $1.2 billion. Time deposits, primarily in non-United States. banks, represented 25 per cent of the total. The banks offer a full range of personal and corporate financial services. All banks are regulated by the territorial

Banking Board headed by the Lieutenant Governor. United States. banks operating in the Territory are also regulated and insured by United States law and institutions.

13. All types of insurance are available through insurance agents who represent major international insurance companies. The insurance industry is regulated by the Lieutenant Governor who serves as Insurance Commissioner.

F. Trade

14. The United States Virgin Islands is not part of the customs territory of the United States. Trade with the Territory operates in a manner similar to a United States foreign trade zone, but with a separate customs law within the zone. The Territory's imports are governed by Law 64, which sets a 6 per cent customs duty that can be lowered by the territorial legislature. Otherwise, foreign trade is generally governed by United States import/export law and regulations and is administered by the United States Customs Service, except for duties and quotas. United States shipments are generally governed by federal interstate commerce law and regulations. One notable exception is the Territory's exemption from the Jones Act, which permits cargo transported between the Territory and ports in the United States to be carried on foreign flag vessels.

G. Tourism

15. Tourism accounts for over 60 per cent of the territorial GDP. In 1996, the number of air and cruise ship arrivals in the Territory equalled 449,628 and 1,316,425, respectively. Tourist expenditure in 1996 totalled $828.7 million.

H. Transportation, communications and basic facilities

16. The Territory continues to be serviced by the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas and the Alexander Hamilton Airport on St. Croix. According to the administering Power, both airports are in excellent condition and in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

17. There are six seaports in the Territory; they are owned, operated and maintained by the United States Virgin Islands Port Authority. On St. Thomas, at the Crown Bay Marina Port, cruise ships have been arriving at the three-berth facility in increasing numbers, while cargo ships are currently utilizing a 900-foot cargo bulkhead. Also on St. Thomas, the Port Authority has completed construction of the Edward Wilmoth Blyde IV Marine Facility, which serves as a main link for passengers travelling between the United States Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. At Cruz Bay, St. John, the Lorendon Lorence Boynes Sr. Dock accommodates four berths for ferry boats travelling to and from St. Thomas. The Ann E. Abramsons Marine Facility at Frederiksted, St. Croix, caters to large and mini cruise ships, naval vessels, limited cargo ships and local pleasure vessels. Located at the Gallows Bay Port in Cristiansted, St. Croix, the Schooner Channel is being utilized by mini cruise ships. Finally, the Port Authority Container Port, on the southern shore of St. Croix, accommodates tanker vessels bringing in molasses to the Territory's rum distillery, a major industry and source of revenue for the United States Virgin Islands Government.

18. Water conservation is of critical concern to the Territory, given the generally low annual rainfall. Water is obtained by three systems: catchments with cisterns, saltwater conversion and wells. The daily water demand on St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix is approximately 3.5, 1.2 and 3.2 million gallons per day respectively.

19. There are approximately 47,000 electricity customers in the Territory. Transmission and distribution of power is typically 13,800 volts, 3-phase, 60-Hertz throughout the islands.

V. Social conditions

A. Labour

20. According to the administering Power, during 1995, the territory lost 2,480 jobs. Total employment declined to 45,070, its lowest level since 1988, and the rate of unemployment was 5.7 per cent. These trends in the labour market were attributed to an overall decline in economic performance of the Territory in 1995.

B. Public health

21. Detailed information on public health is contained in the previous working papers prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2014, paras. 46-50 and A/AC.109/2054/Add.1).

C. Crime and crime prevention

22. It will be recalled that, in 1995, the Territory joined the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) as a full member.

D. Educational conditions

23. According to the administering Power, the territorial Government operates the public education system subsidized by federal grants. The system provides education for school-age children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Education is compulsory for children until they reach the age of 16 years.

24. There are 56 parochial and private schools. In 1996, approximately 30,000 students were enrolled in private, parochial and public schools. Pre-school, adult education and vocational programmes also operate in the Territory.

25. The University of the Virgin Islands is a four-year institution with a main campus on St. Thomas and a branch on St. Croix.

26. There are approximately 2,500 full-time and part-time students. The University offers B.A. and B.Sc. degrees in 33 fields and Master's degrees in education, business administration and public administration.

VI. Future status of the Territory

27. Information relating to the 1993 referendum on federal status and the future political status of the Territory is contained in the 1994 and 1995 working papers prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1183, paras. 15 and 16 and A/AC.109/2014, para. 61)).

Position of the territorial Government

28. Information on the position of the territorial Government is contained in a previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2014, paras. 62-63).

Position of the administering Power

29. Information on the position of the United States on the future status of the Territories under their administration is contained in document A/AC.109/2047, para. 39.

Action by the General Assembly

30. On 27 March 1997, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 51/224 B, section XI of which refers to the United States Virgin Islands.

Notes

[1] The information contained in the present paper has been derived from the information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United States of America under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations on 1 April 1997, and from published reports.

[2] The United States Virgin Islands, Economic Summary 1995.